

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

First Named Inventor: ZHANG, HONGGUANG

**Art Unit:**

Appln. No.: 10/568,804

**Examiner:**

Filed: February 21, 2006

**Confirmation No.:**

For: IMPROVED THIOSULPHATE LEACH  
PROCESS

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated below.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.